

TESTIMONY OF HAZEL MAPLE

ON

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S PROPOSED RULE
"GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICIAN PANEL
DETERMINATIONS OF WORKER REQUESTS FOR
ASSISTANCE IN
FILING FOR STATE WORKERS' COMPENSATION
BENEFITS"**

RADISSON HOTEL CINCINNATI AIRPORT

OCTOBER 25, 2001

HAZEL MAPLE

My name is Hazel Maple. I have asked someone to please read my testimony for me because I can not speak of my husband without crying. He worked at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant twenty-one years in Janitor and Shipping & Receiving Classifications. The Shipping & Receiving work was with the Lithium Crew. I am not sure of what all he was exposed to because he would not tell me or he did not know.

In 1992 the Plant doctor told him his enzymes were high and he needed to see his family physician. The family physician sent us to Columbus. The blood flow to the liver was so great, he had to have surgery. He was eventually diagnosed with chirosis of the liver. My husband never smoked or drank a day in his life

Four years later the doctors began talking to us about a liver transplant. We waited two more years before he was given a liver from an 18 year old boy. My husband remained extremely sick, with loss of overall health until he died 2 ½ years later.

Our expenses were great. His medicine was approximately \$1,500.00 per month. Had we not had the medicare to pay the first three years of anti-rejection pills, we would not have made it financially.

We read about the law that was passed to help the workers made ill by the exposures at the plant. Since he was not diagnosed with cancer, I had hoped to be eligible for something with the State compensation and I would have help from DOE. I can not begin to say what he was exposed to at the plant or that it made him sick and die at a young age. I need DOE to help me with that. They knew my husband's work life better than I did because he protected their secrets at the plant with his life.

I am angry and hurt. I am also alone for the rest of my life. DOE should help us that do not know what to do or how. They should make this easy for me. They owe me.